(f) whether Government inquired about exporters fulfilling export obligation and simultaneously having surplus of those inputs which are supposed to have been used for export obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Value Based Advance Licence Scheme was intended to provide flexibility within the overall cif value of the lincence, for importation of the inputs allowed therein except the sensitive items. Therefore, under the Scheme, it was left to the licence holder to import all or any one of the inputs required for the manufacture of the exported product.

(b) Since the Scheme provides for flexibility, it would not be correct to presume that there is any loss of revenue.

(c) Fresh guideline have been issued on 1-3-95 which, while preserving the flexibility, will remove any scope for mis-use.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Under the VABAL Scheme, once the exporter fulfils his export obligation, he is allowed to transfer his licence or the imported goods.

(f) Due to flexibility provided under the Scheme, if the exporter decides to import only one input out of the non-sensitive items within the overall cif value, this could result in import of a quality greater than what actually was consumed in the exported product.

Restrictions on import of ensitive items under Vabal

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Value Based Advance Licence Scheme high tariff items categorised as sensitive items are restricted for import upto a limit;

(b) if so, whether this limit is arbitrary and liable to misuse;

(c) whether it is being considered by Government that when licences are transferred after fulfilment of export obligation, Modified Value Added Tax (MODVAT) availed on duty paid inputs used for exports should be expunged;

(d) the reasons for allowing exporters MODVAT credit beyond their requirements of inputs for exports; and

(e) on what consideration exporters are allowed to import items beyond their production requirement and then allowed to transfer them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Items categorised as sensitive items are restricted for import. Some are high tariff items some are low tariff items.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some representations have been received for reversal of MODVAT/ expunging of MODVAT filed by VABAL licence holders and the same are under consideration of Deptt. of Revenue.

(d) Central Excise Law permits MODVAT credit of duties paid on inputs to the extent required for the export product subject to certain conditions/limitations.

(e) Value Based Advance Licensing (VABAL) Scheme provides the flexibility for importation of inputs within the overall CIF value of a licence except the sensitive items. It is left to the licence to import one or any of the non-sensitive items allowed againts the VABAL. Accordingly, the imports under the VABAL need not necessarily be in accordance with the

actual requirement of inputs that go into the export product. Once exports have been completed, the licence has the freedom to transfer the imported inputs, which are replenishment imports.

Position of export-import trade

895. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of export-import trade during current year and its comparision with last three years in terms of dollar and rupee quantum; and

(b) what is the position of export trade with various countries at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Details of India's exports and imports for the period April-January, 1994-95, the lastest period for which such data are available and for the corresponing periods during the last three years are given below:—

	Exports		Imports	
	US $ Million	Rs. Crores	US $ Million	Rs. Crores
1994-95 (Apr.-Jan.)	20871	65483	22708	71248
1993-94 (Apr.-Jan.)	17799	55825	18381	57649
1992-93 (Apr.-Jan.)	14660	41922	18256	52206
1991-92	14345	34699	15929	38531

(b) The details of export trade with various countries are published in the brochure 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities and Countries), December 1994. Copies of this volume are available in the Parliament Library.

Export of Agricultural items without restrictions

896. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural items being exported without any restrictions at present;

(b) the foreign exchange earnings by export of such items; and

(c) the details of other agricultural commodities that Government are considering to allow for export without license?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) All agricultural items not covered by Chapter XVI, Negative list of Exports Part I, II & III of the Exim Policy and those not regulated by any other law for the time being in force are permitted for exports.

(b) Data is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Trade Policy review is an on going exercise. As and when Govt. takes a decision with respect to any commodity, it will be notified to the public.